

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A method is disclosed for operating a satellite telecommunications system, including transmitting a message from a user terminal, the message comprising a Uniform Resource Locator (URL); receiving the message with a satellite, selecting a gateway to receive the message based on the URL, and forwarding the message to the selected gateway; at the selected gateway, performing a Domain Name Service (DNS) query in response to the URL received in the message to obtain an Internet protocol (IP) address of a destination server identified by the URL; and replacing the URL with the IP address and sending the message from the gateway to the destination server having the IP address. The gateway is selected in response to a portion of the URL that identifies a country where the destination server identified by the URL is located, and the message is forwarded to the gateway that serves the identified country. The satellite routes the message to the selected gateway through at least one Inter-Satellite Link (ISL) to at least one further satellite.

Approved for Release